

# Public Issues Report 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009

## Public File 2009 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

### News at

6:01am	7:01	8:01
6:15	7:15	8:15
6:31	7:31	8:31
6:45	7:45	8:45

### October 1

Here's the latest with the nuclear situation in Iran, the US and five other top world powers are meeting right now with Iran in Geneva, demanding it freeze its nuclear activities. And word is, the Washington wouldn't mind having a little one-on-one sit down with Iranian diplomats. The US also wants a UN nuclear watchdog to have full access to Iran's newly revealed Uranium enrichment site. More and more women who have cancer in one breast are opting to remove their other healthy one. That's according to a study published earlier this week in the medical journal, "Cancer." But some experts say there is no evidence to support that removing a healthy breast will increase a woman's chance of survival. Despite that, nearly 5,000 New York women chose to remove a healthy breast during the 11 years of the study. Deaths from breast cancer have dropped more than 2% each year since 1990. Overall, breast cancer death rates are down 30% from 1989. Doctors say we are winning the war with breast cancer because patients are more educated in getting yearly mammograms, and doctors have new tools available for detection.

### October 2

The town that put Saturn on the map is stunned this morning after GM announced the end of the brand earlier this week. Workers at the plant in Springhill, Tennessee hope it doesn't shut down. They built the first Saturn there, but stopped making them in '07 and started making the Chevy Traverse instead. Now, in production of the Traverse is scheduled to move to Michigan next month which could leave their plant idle. If you could stay up for "The Late Show," you missed more than the Top 10 List. David Letterman spilled the beans about someone trying to extort him and his sexual relations with staff members. He said he had to testify in front of a grand jury about a package he received 3 weeks ago from someone demanding two million bucks to keep quiet about his affairs. Cops arrested the person accused of the extortion. No word on when the sex with staffers happened. Michael Jackson's autopsy reveals that Popofol combined with three other sedatives probably killed him. The report also shows Jackson had chronic inflammation in his lungs which affected his breathing, but they are not sure what caused it. Docs also confirmed he had needle marks on his arms and knees. Otherwise, the King of Pop was in good health.

### October 5

And a new study out today in the Journal, "Pediatrics" says more kids have an autism-related disorder. It says 1% of kids, between 3 and 17 years old, is affected. This means, 1 in 100 kids have the disorder, up from 1 in 150 just 6 years ago. Former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan says the economy will grow more in the third quarter but so will unemployment. He also told ABC's "This Week," while he supports short-term economic relief like extending unemployment benefits. He says it's too soon to even consider a second stimulus package to help boost the economy. Cooler weather this morning in California is giving firefighters some welcome relief as they battle the now 7,500 acre sheep fire in San Bernardino County. But the blaze is still threatening homes and forcing thousands to evacuate. It's only 20% contained. Governor Schwarzenegger has declared a state of emergency.

### October 6

Tough economic times are hitting nearly all industries. But does sex still sell? Apparently not! Many porn companies are cutting back on the lavish parties and many strip clubs are losing customers, too. Dirty magazines sales have also dropped drastically over the past year. But sex catalogs selling toys are still

selling plenty of items. Some peeps say more people are staying home to have their fun. What's the one thing you want in a new house? Size? Extra amenities? A new study shows it's energy efficiency. According to the American Institute of Architects, more people want better insulation to lower heating and cooling costs and water saving devices instead of a game room or workshop. The shift in tastes reflects worries about home values: tighter family budgets and the threat of unemployment. The United Nations has released its list of top countries in the world in which to live. And of the 182 nations, Norway is tops! Presumably based on the balmy climate. Actually, the list is made based on criteria such as life expectancy. Literacy, school enrollment, and gross domestic product per capita. Australia and Iceland came in second and third. The US was 13th, down one spot from last year. The worst place in the world to live? Niger. Followed by second to last, Trenton, New Jersey.

#### October 7

We have some breaking news right now. The Afghan Taliban just released a statement saying they pose no threat to the West but will continue their fight against occupying foreign forces. But as you know, President Obama has said defeating the militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan is a top priority. There will be another big meeting in Chicago today. As US Attorney General, Eric Holder, and Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, talk with leaders, parents and students about the violence there. President Obama decided to send them after 16-year old Derroin Albert was beaten to death last month. At least 47 school-age kids have been killed in homicides in Chicago this year. The Department of Education wants to use \$650 million in stimulus money to help school districts that show they're on the 'cutting edge' of education. This new round of money will go directly to local districts that already have 'cool' programs in the works – or those districts that have new ideas to develop. But, districts must be able to match 20% of the funds through private sector donations, and be able to sustain their programs after the government funding ends.

#### October 8

There is some possible great news to identify women at risk for breast cancer faster than ever before. Canadian researchers say they've developed a hormone testing technique that could eventually be used in a handheld device. The new "lab-on-a-chip" technique analyzes tiny samples of blood and breast tissue. The research team is set to begin a clinical trial, and we should know the results in a few years. While texting and driving is a bad idea, texting while trying to quit smoking might be a good one. A new study has found a program which sense text messages about stop smoking advice doubled the chances of smokers being able to kick the habit for up to a year. If a smoker felt the urge to light up they could text "crave" to the program and get immediate advice on what to do. You can pretty much expect to be delayed when flying. A new report says flight delays are twice as common now and will only get worse. Here's the problem...lots of short trips between big cities and a jacked up air-traffic control system. The Brookings Research Firm also says the average wait time is nearly an hour.

#### October 9

President Obama won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He won a gold medal for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen International diplomacy and co-operation between peoples." He beat out 205 other candidates. Besides the gold, he gets a diploma and \$1.4 million. He'll get all of his loot December 10th. The Taliban just released a statement condemning the decision to award this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Obama, saying he had "not taken a single step towards peace in Afghanistan." Well, NASA just bombed the moon...to fetch a pail of moon water. Two spacecraft hit the moon at 5,600 miles per hour. One hit a south crater, sending moon dust, six miles into the atmosphere. The second spacecraft analyzed it to see if there's water. We're dialing up a former NASA engineer to find out what its all about. A new study of 98 men who ranged in height from 5'1" to 6'5" suggests that tall men have more attractive partners. The study, which appears in this month's "Evolutionary Psychology" journal, also shoes that taller men are happier and less jealous.

#### October 12

Demands for the "regular" flu shots are soaring causing shortages. Both CVS and Walgreens are reporting some shortages at their "clinics." About 77 million doses of the seasonal vaccine have been shipped to the US which is more than ever before for this time of year. And after a week delay, we know

Michigan, Florida, Ohio, and Delaware as well as other states are receiving the "swine flu" vaccines as we speak. A ten foot long alligator bit off the arm of an elderly golfer as he was trying to retrieve his ball at a course in South Carolina. Wildlife officials managed to capture and kill the alligator, recovering the duffer's arm in hope that it may be re-attached. In response to angry golfers, management of the Country Club says those wanting to play the ritzy course will now only charge a leg... A new study from the "Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration" says that 45% of food service and workers smoke. The study also says that the percentage of the population who smokes goes down as their age goes up. The workplaces with the fewest numbers of smokers? Schools and libraries... Knowledge is power.

October 13

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has officially recognized the state's first openly gay elected official... Harvey Milk. He signed a bill to make every May 22nd Harvey Milk day. Public schools will be encouraged to conduct lessons remembering the life of Milk. Other new laws passed, giving same-sex couples legally married in other states all the rights of marriage in California. Important news for women who had hormone replacement therapy to treat menopause. New research says women whose breasts became tender after having the therapy have almost twice the risk for developing breast cancer. Researchers say the tenderness could be an early indicator, but more research is needed to see if there is a true connection between the two. The numbers guru's are slowly but surely coming around saying the recession is finally over. A new survey found 80% of economists believe we're coming out of the woods...but we still have a long hike because of weak spending and a lot of people are still unemployed. Analysts say don't expect to see a difference until well into next year.

October 14

In the largest study yet of people with H1N1, most of those who died from it had underlying conditions like asthma. But, 45% were perfectly healthy. The CDC also just announced children with sickle cell and other blood diseases could be at higher risk. Rush Limbaugh's bid to buy the Saint Louis Rams is already facing one "neigh" from an NFL owner. Indianapolis Colts owner, Jim Irsay, said he "couldn't even consider voting for Rush," during an owner's meeting yesterday. Limbaugh would need at least 24 votes from 32 NFL owners in order to stake a claim in the league. NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, is also against the sale. Blondes have more fun and they also spend more time with themselves... in the mirror! A new study from "Goody" hair care finds blondes take up to 72 minutes primping and preening in front of the mirror everyday. That amounts to 22 days a year getting ready! Brunettes on the other hand only spend up to 66 minutes a day in front of the mirror.

October 15

Apparently, 4th and 8th graders are having a hard time adding it up. The education department released its latest report card on math scores...and it's nothing to brag about. Secretary Arne Duncan says kids still have a lot of improvement when it comes to math. The highest scores were in Massachusetts, the lowest was DC. The NFL has sacked Rush Limbaugh. That's the word hat's the word from the head of the St. Louis blues...the group trying to buy the Rams. The group says Limbaugh's participation had become a "complication and distraction." Despite Limbaugh's claims he received many e-mails supporting his bid, the group believed his presence would have doomed their chances for the team. An Ohio woman could be charged this morning after posing as a lottery winner at a Burlington Coat Factory store, offering to take everyone on a shopping spree. Things got ugly when customers found out it was all a hoax. The woman's limo driver turned her in after he realized she couldn't foot the bill. She will be checked for mental illness before being charged.

October 16

The NAACP in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana want a white justice of the peace to resign after he denied an interracial couple a marriage license. Keith Bardwell says he's not racist...He's just worried about the children who might be born of the relationship. He also says in his experience, most interracial marriages don't last. The couple went to a different justice of the peace and obtained a license. A six-month old baby was hit by a train...and survived! The mom in Australia was waiting for the train. It was windy and she didn't have the brakes on. The stroller with a six month old rolled off the platform onto the tracks and

was hit by the train. Turns out he only had bumps and bruises. A Colorado 6-year-old is safe and on the ground this morning after his family, cops, and the entire nation thought he was in helium balloon speeding through the sky. It turned out, little falcon was nowhere near the balloon. He was in the attic above his garage, hiding in a cardboard box. But was it all a hoax? That's what some people believe...

October 19

The balloon boy's parents will probably face felony charges after Colorado cops say it was all a hoax. They say Richard and Mayumi Heene had been planning for weeks some sort of stunt to gain media attention as they tried to land a reality television show. They could be charged with felony conspiracy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and making a false report, as well as other charges. The white Louisiana "justice of the peace" who refused to marry an interracial couple says he's not quittin'! This comes after the Governor, and a State Senator called for Keith Ardwell's resignation. Bardwell claims he is not racist, and stands by his decision not to marry the couple. It'll be a showdown in the Senate as lawmakers comb through their various health care insurance reform bills and try to merge them into one. At odds: the public healthcare option. But they might get a break. Top White House advisers say President Obama won't demand that the final bill include a government-run option even though that's his preference.

October 20

We're getting you plugged in to some breaking news out of Switzerland, where about an hour ago, the highest court in the land "denied" Roman Polanski's appeal to be released on bail! The court ruled there's a "high risk" the famed director will escape the country before being extradicted back to the US. Polanski faces sentencing here for having sex with a 13-year old girl more than 30 years ago. As lawmakers try to merge 5 health care bills down to two, reform is getting a push from another direction. People for reform will hold phone bank events in all 50 states today and 100 liberal interest groups are meeting in DC. President Obama is also speaking via video hookup to hundreds of small gatherings nationwide. A lawyer reppin' the balloon boy family says charges in the case could be coming next week. Richard Heene and his wife, Mayumi face several felonies including conspiracy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and attempting to influence a public servant. If convicted they could spend up to 6 years in prison for each felony charge.

October 21

The myth busters will testify before congress, clearings facts and fiction on all things swine flu. Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano, and Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, will also report on if the US is prepared for an outbreak. The CDC now says swine flu patients younger than 25 are the main ones being hospitalized. Now the recession is hitting college tuition. A new report out says tuition and fees went up at four year public colleges by 6.5%. Tuition at private schools went up by just over 4%. Officials say don't let the high cost scare you. Don't forget to apply for grants and federal tax credits. A new report this morning says the Obama administration needs to do more when it comes to biological terrorism. The bi-partisan commission agrees the White House works hard to curb nuclear threats, but says it needs to spend more money and conduct more surveillance when it comes to bioterrorism. The 'O' administration says it is a top priority.

October 22

It's full steam ahead for Defense Secretary, Robert Gates, on his decision for Afghanistan. He announced this morning he's moving forward with his recommendations on whether to send more troops. But he didn't say what those recommendations are. Gates plans to spill the beans to president during a NATO defense ministers meeting this week. Cops in Florida and Georgia now say that a girl's body found in a Georgia landfill is that of seven year old Somer Thompson. Thompson disappeared Monday after walking ahead of a group of friends while the children walked home from school. New numbers out today say more Americans plan to keep on working and delay their retirement because the drop in their retirement savings. 65% say they'll work for at least one year longer than they originally though. Here's why: they don't have confidence in the market after the big drop and say people are living longer and need more savings now.

October 23

The hate crime bill is on President Obama's desk this morning. The law would make an assault on someone based on their sexual orientation a federal crime. But several religious groups are worried it'll be used to criminalize conservative 'speech' on subjects related to homosexuality and abortion. Lawmakers say it's just to prosecute violent acts. Rapper Lil Wayne may need some help from Mrs. Officer. He's expected to head to the big house for a year after "pleading guilty" to weapons charges yesterday. The Grammy award-winning artist, whose real name is Dwayne Carter, will be sentenced in February. Cops found him smokin' pot on the street with a gun on him. Michael Jackson's mom has fired the lawyers helping her to get control of his estate. And there's no word her new one isn't doing so hot either. He already missed a key hearing where the judge gave more power to the men Katherine Jackson is fighting. Jackson says she got rid of the old lawyers because the family wanted a fresh perspective on the case.

October 26

The White House wants you to simmer down...and don't be alarmed with the President declaring the swine flu outbreak a national emergency. The 'O' administration says it's not reacting to any new developments. It'll just the feds more flexibility. They'll be able to give healthcare facilities permission to set up alternate care sites if h1n1 really gets outta hand. New numbers out today show the current healthcare system wastes between \$500 and \$850 billion dollars a year. Why some much money? The Reuter's Report says 37% of the waste is caused by unnecessary tests and care to protect against malpractice. Other biggies on the list: fraud and redundant paperwork. Wakey, wakey.. Eggs and bakey.. moms, that might be better for the kiddos than some sugary. A new 'captain obvious' survey out today says the kiddie cereals are too high in sugar and too low in fiber. Yale researchers say the cereals have 85% more sugar and 65% less fiber than adult cereals. The sweetest ones: Reese's Puffs, Corn Pops, and Lucky Charms.

October 27

Check out the details on those Visa or Master Card gift cards that you can use anywhere. The National Retail Federation says some charges could drain up to 30% of the value. Some charge up to \$7 just to use, others charge monthly fees. Lawmakers want to ban fees and extend expirations to 5 years by 2010. Tthe Senate's public option with the 'opt out' plan is gaining steam today. Key Democratic Senators are working to get the bill ready for debate in the next few weeks. It would give millions of Americans who not covered at work the option to buy insurance run by the government. States would have until 2014 to decide whether to withdraw from the public program. There's new Halloween safety info out today. "Safe Kids USA" says the little ghost and goblins are "twice as likely" to be hit by a car on Halloween night than any other costume. Researchers say it's kiddos walking alone in the dark, sometimes wearing masks, and dark clothing.

October 28

The CDC this morning says the Feds may have to toss unused doses swine flu vaccine if people can't get vaccinated soon enough. Officials want health providers to vaccinate people ASAP because as the Feds make more vaccine and ship it out, states may have too much left over. First daughters Malia and Sasha didn't wait. They got their vaccinations as soon as it became available to DC kids. If you want to get a glimpse of how you'll look when you get older, just look at your mom! A new study says daughters age like their mothers because they have the same skeletal and cellular make up. Plastic surgeons used facial imaging and 3D modeling and found women sag and their eyes droop just like mom. Well if first they don't succeed, they'll try, try again. The Ares rocket is still on the launch pad this morning scheduled to go up at 8AM. NASA scrapped it yesterday after a cloud rolled in. By the way, this whole thing is part of a \$445 million program to design a spacecraft to replace the space shuttle next year.

October 29

Word is.. Rats love hot-lanta! It was second to New York – for cities having rat problems. Two years ago, Hot-Lanta didn't even crack the top 10. Researchers say sit's due to high foreclosure and flooding. Others on the list – Houston, Louisville, and Philly. House leaders will get all of the attention today as they unveil their version of a healthcare bill. It includes a public option that requires people to buy health coverage

and it'll make the rich help pay for it. It could land on the house floor for debate as early as next week. Senators aren't too far behind. Their bill, with an 'opt out' public option clause is coming soon. Costco is set to accept food stamps nationwide. The warehouse wants to open up to more than just bargain-hunting affluent shoppers. Costco plans to accept food stamps at half of its stores by Thanksgiving and go national as soon as it wins regulatory approval in each state.

#### October 30

The economy is stabilizing this morning. But, is still fragile and need nurturing. That's the word from Treasury Secretary, Timothy Ggeithner. The commerce department says the economy jumped 3.5% which was the best quarter growth in two years. But critics say it was only because of the cash-for-clunkers program and the first-time homebuyers tax credit. When it comes to the regular seasonal flu, new research shows when moms-to-be get the regular flu shot, their babies reap the benefits. Doctors say babies were born bigger, healthier, and likely to be premature. Researchers hope these new findings will encourage more pregnant women to get the shot.

#### November 2

President Karzai has won the Afghan election after his opponent Abdullah Abdullah dropped out of the race. Dr Abdullah Abdullah withdrew from the run-off against President Karzai in protest at the government's failure to combat election fraud. Mr Karzai has effectively been handed a second term, which threatens to undermine the legitimacy of the new government. If you've been waiting to get vaccinated for h1n1, this may be your lucky week! The feds are expecting 10 million "more" doses by the end of the week. The "health and human services department" says five drug companies are cranking them out. So far 26.6 million doses have been shipped all over the country. Walmart is already slashing toy prices again this morning to try to dominate the holiday sales. 100 toys are 20-30% cheaper. This is in addition to the "100 toys for 10 bucks" deal launched in September. Some manufacturers are worried shoppers will start to expect lower prices for the toys even after the holidays.

#### November 3

New info on the deadly ground beef recall that has already killed two people. The CDC says the meat, possibly contaminated with E.Coli, was processed from a company in New York. Faribank Farms shipped more than half-a-million pounds up and down the East Coast to Trader Joe's, Shaw's, BJ's wholesale, Giant – and a bunch of other stores. The code to look for is "EST 492." And health officials just released new info from clinical trials on the swine flu vaccine. They say the vaccine is safe for pregnant women and children. They also stress one dose will work for moms-to-be. But kids under 10 need 2 doses. An Aspen man was so desperate to get his cell phone back, he went dumpster diving. The guy was raking leaves when he dropped his phone and accidentally scooped it up in a pile. By the time he realized what happened the leaves were gone. The man went to the dump and kept calling his phone for 30 minutes listening for the ring while sifting through trash. He eventually found it.

#### November 4

Relief for those who don't get 'paid' sick days may be just around the bend. There's a hearing on capitol hill in a couple of weeks to force employers to pay workers who are told to stay home when they're sick. The emergency law would cover swine flu, or any other infectious disease. There are 50 million Americans who don't get paid sick time. Feeling a little grouchy this morning? It could be a good thing. Reuters just released a survey saying negative people cope better in demanding situations. Researchers say 'happy' people promote creativity, flexibility, and cooperating but can be shallow. Sour pussies this more carefully and pay more attention to details. The Louisiana justice of the peace who refused to marry an interracial couple is calling it quits. Bardwell was facing a federal discrimination suit and says he resigned because he thought he would lose. But, he also said that if he could do it all over again, he would still turn away mixed couples.

#### November 5

The House will take a look at a bill today to give those unemployed and homebuyers some extra relief. Senators approved extending jobless benefits, as well as the homebuyers tax credit. Here's the deal –first time homebuyers will get \$8,000 to buy a home. Repeat buyers will get \$6,500. You have to have a

contract on the new home by the end of next April and close by June 30th. It's win number 27 for the New York Yankees. They beat the Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 last night in the Bronx. Hideki Matsui was named MVP with three home runs and eight RBIs over the series. He's the first Japanese player to get the honor. What would force former Miss California, Carrie Prejean, to drop her lawsuit against pageant officials? A sex tape of course! TMZ IS reporting that once pageant lawyers produced an "extremely graphic" video of Prejean, acting alone...the two sides settled their suits! She was suing for slander, religious discrimination, ec...Pageant officials wanted their money back for her boob job.

#### November 9

The health care bill is on the fast track to the Senate today but it's expected to hit a big speed bump. If approved, insurers can't deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions. And if you can't afford coverage, the Feds will help you pay for it. President Obama said he's "absolutely confident" Senators will get 'er done. And an emergency in Louisiana - as well as the rest of the Gulf Coast this morning - as hurricane Ida heads that way. The coast looks calm now, but everyone is on high alert. In Biloxi, Mississippi, there hasn't been any mandatory evacuations and most businesses like casinos are still open. Army investigators are asking troops and civilians for help as they piece together evidence in the Fort Hood shooting. They say some people who ran to take cover during the shooting may have evidence - like damage to their vehicles or clothes from gunshots. The pieces may help investigators figure out where the bullets were fired.

#### November 10

Now to remembering those lost in the fort hood mass shooting. President Obama and First Lady, Michelle, will be at today's memorial service along with thousands of others. The Obama's will also meet privately with the hurt soldiers and their families. The military says 39-year-old Nidal Malik Hasan killed 13 people and hurt 29. The man who tried to blackmail funny man David Letterman is heading to court today. Cops say CBS New Producer, Joe Halderman, tried to extort \$2 million from Letterman last month. And word is, he ain't coppin' a plea and wants to take the case to trial. And get this, he's already raised \$100,000 for his defense! It looks like Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler "walked this way" out the door, leaving the rest of the band's career "living on the edge." Lead guitarist, Joe Perry, said yesterday the band is looking for another singer. Tyler shocked the group saying he wants to focus on a solo during his interview with a British rock magazine last week. But here's the thing, if it ain't broke...

#### November 11

One day after the nation mourned those gunned down at Fort Hood, we honor our veterans. Today is Veterans Day. Of course, there will be parades all over the country. New York hosts the largest parade in the country. It'll honor for the first time the marines' famous Navajo code talkers during WWII. Who are you blaming for a lack of swine flu vaccine? A new poll says most Americans are pointing the finger at the drug companies. 62% blamed the drug companies and only 58% blame the Feds. So far only 38 million doses have been made available. Walmart is working overtime to prevent Black Friday tragedies! You may remember, a WalMart worker was trampled to death last year by a crowd of shoppers trying to snag deals. Well this year, the mega-discounter is trying to keep everyone safe by - keeping stores open overnight on Thanksgiving to keep large crowds from gatherine and having local police and workers help direct shoppers.

#### November 12

President Obama wants more options for his Afghan war strategy this morning before he makes up his mind. Hhe wants some ideas on how the US will turn over security to the Afghan government and an exit strategy for troops. He's expected to mull everything over during his nine-day trip to Asia kickin' off today. The White House says he'll make a decision in the next couple of weeks. LAPD is trying to figure out exactly "why" former boxing champ, Mike Tyson, punched the papparazi yesterday at LAX. Tyson's peeps say the photographer attacked him, and his family at the ticket counter. But witnesses say something "else" went down. Cops are checking out the surveillance tapes for answers. Cops in Cleveland continue to search the home where they've already found 11 bodies. They say the stench has returned stronger than ever. They're using bulldozers to clean up the area as they prep for the FBI to come in. They'll also be using thermal imaging cameras around 50 year old Anthony Sowell's home

looking for more bodies. As of now, he's been charged with 5 counts of murder.

November 13

New information about the accused Fort Hood shooter. Major Nidal Malik Hasan is paralyzed. His lawyers say it doesn't look like he'll be able to walk in the future. Authorities say Hasan opened fire at a military processing center at Fort Hood last week. He's been charged with 13 counts of murder, but he's not being charged with terrorism because the military doesn't have guidelines for that. The accused peep Tom in the ESPN reporter stalking case will also be in court today. Michael Barrett is accused of secretly video taping Erin Andrews through her hotel room door's peep hole while she traveled for work. He could be charged with felony stalking charges. That'll get him 5 years behind bars. Hair today, suspended tomorrow. An Ohio middle schooler has been "cut" from class because of his hair-cut. Dustin Reader got in-school suspension after cutting a large capital B and stripes hair cut to honor the Cincinnati Bengals. The principal said it was too distracting. He'll be on suspension until he changes his hair. But parents are supporting his new "do."

November 16

The Feds are eyeing some prime real estate this morning – and it's not for the lake-front views. The 'O' administration will head to Illinois today to look at a super max facility to house thousands of federal prisoners - including some Gitmo detainees. Right now, the prison in Thomson is pretty empty. But if the Feds move in, it'll bring thousands of new jobs and \$1 billion dollars over the next four years. New information is coming out about how plastic products affect children, specifically infants. Researchers say chemicals in plastics "alter" the brains of baby boys making them "more feminine." Boys exposed to high doses in the womb are "less likely" to play with quote "boy toys" or play rough. If you're not talking about sex, that's probably why researchers say there are so many people waking up with STD's. The top diseases: Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Researchers say the US has the highest rate of STD's of any developed country.

November 17

New advice on when to get a mammogram makes you wonder.. Who should we believe? The Preventive Services Task Force now says we should wait until we turn 50 before getting screened. This is a complete '180' from what the American Cancer Society has said for years... women should start getting them at 40. Here's the other thing, the task force also said self breast-exams don't help. Teen drivers are no better than adults when it comes to texting while driving. A new Pew Research Report says about a third TWD, text while driving – and half of teens admit to talking on their cellies while behind the wheel. So far, 18 states have banned texting while driving and several more are working on it. You could be seeing as many as 30 meteors per hour flying across the sky if you look outside your window tonight. The 'Leonid Meteor Shower' is making its once every 33 years appearance this morning, streaking across the skies of the Americas and Asia. Experts say the best way to see the showers is to get as far away from a city as possible where the sky will appear darker.

November 18

Once again, Ford tops the list. This time it's all about safety. The insurance institute for highway safety just released its annual report on the safest new vehicles. Ford received the most picks, with six. GM also got good news. It's Buick Lacrosse was one of the safest 'large' cars. As Sarah Palin's book tour "officially" kicks off today, there is controversy over her Newsweek cover pic. Palin is putting the mag on blast calling this photo "sexist." The picture was originally published in the August issue of "Runners World," for a story about Palin's love of running. Newsweek says the pic was the most interesting photo available. More pirate attacks near Somalia. Somali pirates tried to attack the US flagged Maersk Alabama again this morning, firing automatic guns at the ship just 350 nautical miles east of the Somali coast. But guards aboard the ship fired back and fought them off. No word on if any one was hurt.

November 19

It's official, Johnny Depp is a two-timer with his sexy self! The "Pirate of the Caribbean" star is once again People Magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive." He first won back in 2003. The only other Hollywood hunk to win the title a second time are Brad Pitt and George Clooney. Senators already have their weekend planned.



They will vote Saturday on whether to begin debates on their just-released health care bill. Here's the break down. It'll cost \$849 billion dollars over 10 years. You won't be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions. Everyone will have to get coverage or pay a fee. The 'infamous' public option is in, with states being able to opt out. It looks like 'more' of you will be going over the river and through the woods to grandma's house in your car. AAA says more people will be driving this Thanksgiving than flying. No duh, it's too expensive! Most will be on the road the day before Turkey Day... and it could be messy. Forecasters are already predicting rain and bad weather for the holiday.

11/20/09

A NEW RECOMMENDATION FROM the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS SAYS WOMEN SHOULD START CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AT AGE 21, AND MOST DO NOT NEED AN ANNUAL PAP SMEAR. THE NEW GUIDELINES, WHICH AIM TO REDUCE OVER TREATMENT, SAY WOMEN YOUNGER THAN 30 SHOULD GET A PAP ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS AND THOSE 30 AND OVER ONCE EVERY 3 YEARS.

11/23/09

The swine flu pandemic may be hitting a peak here in the u-s, but health officials say prepare for round two. They say flu can actually peak a 'couple of times' during a 'single' season. Coming back after the holidays with a vengeance. But in the meantime, experts are watching the current strain of h1n1 for any signs it may be mutating.

11/24/09

A NEW U-S-A TODAY GALLUP POLL this morning SHOWS WOMEN ARE ANGRY ABOUT the preventative services task force's suggestion to wait until you turn 50 before getting the girls checked. 76 PERCENT OF WOMEN saying 'waiting' puts their lives at risk. 84 PERCENT OF WOMEN AGES 35 TO 49 PLAN TO GET A MAMMOGRAM anyway.

11/25/09

TOYOTA IS RECALLING 2000 to 2003 MODEL YEAR TUNDRA PICK-UP trucks. The glitch... ROAD SALT has been causing SPARE TIRES on the underbelly TO FALL OFF. TOYOTA SUGGESTS storing the spare IN THE BED OF THE TRUCK UNTIL THEY FIGURE OUT a permanent FIX.

11/26/09 As the President prepares his primetime speech to the nation next tuesday on his strategy for afghanistan, the white house says all troops will be out of the country within 8 years. Obama is also set to announce he's sending about 30-thousand more troops as part of a new plan to train afghan security forces. But he won't spill the beans on a specific troop withdrawal timetable. Only saying they won't be there past 20-17.

11/30/09

Ladies, not sure about that guy at the bar who keeps hitting on you? Now there are ways to check up on him. The user punches in as much information as they have on their subject. Results can range from past addresses, real estate ownership and business and professional licenses to bankruptcies, evictions, criminal records and what the company calls "possible relationships." DateCheck offers some less-serious information, too. Its Interests feature trolls for information on educational background, social networking activities and professional history while Compatibility compares the subject's horoscope and astrological sign with the user's.

12/1/09

Today marks the 54th anniversary of rosa parks' refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Parks was arrested which sparked a yearlong bus boycott. When parks passed away October 25, 2005 she was given the rare honor of lying in state at the U.S. Capitol.

12/2/09

Ladies a look at why your guy loves you as is...according to Glamour. You don't have to look perfect. You don't have to spend \$ on lingerie. His hobbies don't have to be your hobbies. You don't have to skip dessert.

12/3/09

From funding Afghanistan to voting on healthcare.. Senators are set to vote today on two competing healthcare measures. One, making sure women have access to mammograms and other preventive screenings. Another, amendment on possible spending cuts in Medicare. This comes as a new poll from Reuters says 59 percent of Americans do want a public option included in reform.

12/4/09

It looks like 400 billion medicare bucks will be cut this morning from the senate's health care overhaul bill. But what about that public option? We see the republicans and democrats debating it on the senate floor. But it looks like the Dems are putting in some o-t, secretly discussing it with each other. One compromise. Putting a nonprofit board in charge of the public option instead of the feds.

12/7/09

Don't you love it when you save money? The feds hope to save 200 billion dollars less than they originally thought in big bank bailout bucks. The treasury department says the bailouts are delivering higher returns and it doesn't think it'll use 'all' of the 700 billion in tarp money. Officials say they may be able use the 'left-overs' to create jobs and reduce the deficit.

12/8/09

It looks like the number of people who are getting and dying from cancer is dropping. A new report out says the country is making headway when comes to reducing tobacco use, finding cancer early and treating it more effectively. But the number isn't exactly where health officials want it to be. Almost a million and a half Americans will be diagnosed this year.. A third of them will die.

12/9/09

Good news on the housing market. Word is.. HOME PRICES HAVE finally STABILIZED. That's the word from REAL ESTATE WEBSITE, ZILLOW DOT COM. It also says some markets are starting to steadily bounce back. BUT 21-PERCENT OF HOMEOWNERS STILL HAD MORTGAGES UNDERWATER IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

12/10/09

HAVE IT YOUR WAY AND HAVE IT CHEAP. THAT'S THE THEME FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS LIKE BURGER KING, MCDONALD'S AND TACO BELL ARE ADOPTING TO GET CUSTOMERS BACK next year. McDonalds is 'officially' rollin' out plans today to offer it's breakfast dollar menu nationally. You can expect ONE DOLLAR DOUBLE-CHEESEBURGERS FROM BURGER KING. AND CHEAPER BURRITOS AND VALUE BOXES FROM TACO BELL.

12/11/09

More and more people are 'staying' in their homes. Online marketer, realty trac says foreclosure fell by eight percent last month for the fourth consecutive month. More people are getting their loans modified and others are taking advantage of that extended homebuyer tax credit. 'but'.. Analysts say the market is still above normal foreclosure levels.

12/14/09

BIG NEWS FOR THOSE BATTLING BREAST CANCER. A one-two punch of tUMOR-TARGETING DRUGS HAVE helped patients live longer even if other treatments aren't working. THE DRUGS HER-CEP-TIN AND TIE-CURB BLOCK A PROTEIN FOUND IN ABOUT 25-percent OF ALL BREAST CANCERS. DOCS THINK IT COULD be even more beneficial for patients IN EARLY STAGES OF CANCER.

12/15/09

Kids are just saying "yes" to drugs. A new 'national institute on drug abuse' study shows smokin' weed and poppin' prescription pills are "in." Smoking regular cigs, binge drinking and using meth is "out." Some officials say the national debate over medical marijuana is partly to blame because kids think it's safe.

12/16/09

6 easy ways to amp your bedroom behavior, from yahoo shine! 1) Power walk. 2) Firm tummy = better orgasm. 3) Don't "think" during sex. 4) Be vocal. 5) Use your "scent-ibility". 6) Must go to our website to see.

12/17/09

A major medical breakthrough in cancer research. Scientist say they've mapped the genetic codes of lung and skin cancer. It's the first time that nearly all the mutations of cancers have been revealed. Bottom line.. This could lead to scientists developing new drugs to target specific mutations.

12/18/09

The heart of the country is costing big time. The American heart association says HEART DISEASE AND STROKE WILL COST THE U-S 503 BILLION DOLLARS NEXT YEAR. THAT'S UP 6 PERCENT. And officials say it COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IN MANY CASES if more people lost weight, eat better and exercise. HEART DISEASE KILLS more men and women than anything else.

12/21/09

RESEARCHERS WERE STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF A TOXIN IN PRODUCING HANGOVERS THE NEXT DAY. PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO DRINK BOURBON OR VODKA MIXED WITH COLA THEN ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS AND PERFORM A TASK. THE RESULTS? BOURBON MADE PEOPLE FEEL WORSE THAN VODKA.

12/22/09

The transportation department just set up new rules to let passengers get off the plane if they're stuck on the tarmac for three hours. Airlines are also required to provide food and water, and keep the bathrooms working if you're stuck for 'two' hours. The new rules kick in next spring. Safety and security reasons are the only exceptions.

12/23/09

The national association of realtors just announced existing home sales went up almost seven and a half percent last month. Jumping to the highest level in almost three years. They hope the news will lift your spirits and encourage people to spend more in 20-10.

12/31/09

BAD NEWS FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM LOWER BACK PAIN. A NEW STUDY FROM KANSAS UNIVERSITY SAYS WHILE THE PORTABLE "TENS" UNIT "DOES" HELP WITH DIABETIC NERVE PAIN, IT DOES NOTHING FOR CHRONIC LOWER BACK. THE DEVICE ELECTRICALLY STIMULATES THE NERVES IN THE BACK WHICH DOCTORS had THOUGHT BLOCKED PAIN SIGNALS FROM GETTING THROUGH TO THE BRAIN. RESEARCHERS SUGGEST ANYONE USING THE DEVICE TO again CONSULT THEIR DOCTOR.